

Discussion Questions

Slide 11

- How did the massive influx of immigrants from Europe into the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries alter the cultural and economic characteristics of the United States?

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- What factors encourage migration?
- Why do you think people choose to leave their homelands?

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- Why do people move from rural to urban areas?
- Why has this occurred in the past, and why does it continue today throughout the world?

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- How has your city or area changed as immigrants have arrived from different countries, both in the recent and more distant past?

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- In what ways does migration affects the natural environment?

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- What environmental factors can alter the distribution of the earth's population?

Slide 26

- Some countries have taken political steps to limit population growth. China has perhaps the strictest policy, limiting most couples to one child; however, it's difficult to enforce this regulation. What would you think if the United States implemented similar policies?
- What are the pros and cons of the government implementing policies to curb population growth?
- Can you think of any other ways in which a country could limit its population growth?

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- What is culture?

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- What do you think it would be like to move to a place where the culture is very different from what you're used to?
- How would you adjust?
- What would you like to learn from other cultures?

Slide 32

- What is “Americanization,” and how does it affect people in other parts of the world?
- What are the pros and cons of Americanization?

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- Come up with some examples of cultural convergence.

Slide 37–38

- In what parts of your town or state do secondary economic activities take place?
- In what parts of your town or state do tertiary economic activities occur?

Slide 39

- Picture a map of your town. Could you divide it into sections where different types of economic activities occur?
- Where do your parents work?
- Where would you go shopping for a new outfit?
- Where do you go out to eat?
- Where would your parents go if they needed to apply for a bank loan or get their car fixed?

Slide 40

- Does your city have a lively downtown?
- Where do most people shop?
- Where do most people head when they go out for dinner or lunch?
- Where do you and your friends like to spend your time?

Slide 41

- How do you think the closing of a factory impacts a town and its residents? What if the town has relied on the factory for a long time as a primary feature of its economy?

Slide 42

- What market areas exist in your community?

Slide 44

- The United States buys much of its oil from OPEC countries. How would an increase in prices affect the daily lives of people in the United States?
- How might a price increase impact the production of goods that the United States intends to export?
- How might changes to exports affect the lives of people in the countries to which the United States sends its goods?

Slide 47

- What economic benefits do United States companies and farms obtain from hiring migrant workers?
- What difficulties might exist with this employer-worker relationship?

Slide 49

- What role do climate, bodies of water, agricultural activities, and transportation routes play in an industry's or a business' decision of where to be located?

Slide 51

- Many people frequently use express mail services to deliver letters and packages overnight from the United States to places as distant as China and Russia. How do you think this ability has affected global business?

Slide 55

- In addition to transportation, communication developments have also had a profound impact on global economic activities. What examples can you think of that illustrate this trend?
- How do you think cell phones, faxes, pagers, computers, and other communications technologies have altered business practices in the United States and in other countries?

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- In what ways do you think population growth might impact an urban area?
- How can growth affect a metropolitan area's infrastructure (transportation, water supply, sewage treatment, garbage collection, police and fire protection services, etc.)?
- What happens to job availability when a city's population grows?
- How are these factors affected when a metropolitan area's population declines?

Slides 63–64

- How accurately do you think the concentric zone model describes cities in the United States?
- How well does the concentric zone model apply to cities with which you're familiar?
- Why do some cities follow the concentric zone model more closely than others?

Slide 65

- What sectors exist in your town?
- How distinct are the divisions between sectors?

Slide 69

- What political and economic divisions do you come across in your everyday life?
- How are they relevant to your life?
- Why do you think these divisions exist?
- Why are they important?

Slide 72

- What types of land-related disputes have you heard about in the news?
- Are you familiar with any disputes in your community?
- What was the disagreement, and what was the outcome?

Slide 81

- What are some reasons why conflict might arise within a country?
- How might differences between cultural groups lead to conflict?
- What types of conflicts have occurred (and occur today) within the United States?
- The United States is a multicultural country; why do you think cultures in this country are not at war with each other like in some other countries?

Slide 82

- Think about capital cities of countries, states, or provinces. Why are they symbolically important?
- How does a capital city help a country, state, or province maintain a sense of unity?